

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

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43

ACTION SY-05

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FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2054

UNCLAS HONG KONG 11016

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ASEC

SUBJECT: LANGUAGE DESIGNATED RSO POSITIONS

REF: STATE 210149

1. CANTONESE, THE ONLY CHINESE DIALECT WIDELY SPOKEN IN HONG KONG, IS NOT ESSENTIAL FOR AN RSO. A KNOWLEDGE OF CANTONESE, REGARDLESS OF THE LEVEL, WOULD NOT MAKE A MARGINAL SECURITY OFFICER INTO A BETTER ONE. HOWEVER, A BASIC JOB ORIENTATED KNOWLEDGE OF THE SPOKEN LANGUAGE WHICH WOULD PROVIDE THE RSO WITH THE FOUNDATION ON WHICH TO BUILD HIS OWN LANGUAGE CAPABILITY, WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY MAKE A GOOD RSO MORE EFFECTIVE.

2. TO ACHIEVE A RUDIMENTARY PROFICIENCY IN CANTONESE (I.E. S-2) WOULD PROBABLY REQUIRE ABOUT SIX MONTHS OF FSI TRAINING. WITH THIS BASIC, JOB ORIENTATED, GROUNDING IN THE SPOKEN LANGUAGE, THE RSO COULD IMPROVE HIS PROFICIENCY THROUGH THE POST LANGUAGE PROGRAM.

3. THIS LEVEL OF LANGUAGE CAPABILITY WOULD BE A DESIRABLE, BUT NOT NECESSARY, SKILL FOR AN RSO. THEREFORE THE POST DOES NOT RECOMMEND THAT THE HONG KONG RSO POSITION BE LANGUAGE DESIGNATED.
CROSS

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